

EASTER HATS AND HOW I MAKE

By Mrs. Pell.



"This lace ought to make a good background."

It is easy enough to make a pretty hat. Almost any milliner with the least bit of taste and training can do that. The difficult thing is to make a hat that fits the head and is becoming, no matter what view you get of it. Frequently the full-face view of a hat will be absolutely bewitching, but the hat will not fit the hair at the side, and perhaps several inches of space will be seen

between the coiffure in the back and the hat brim. I simply never permit a customer to buy a hat without fitting it. After the lady has selected the number of hats she would like to make her choice from, if some one of the number does not exactly fit her hair, I always call my head milliner in, and the milliner bends and twists the straw, raises or lowers the brim, adds a rose here or a feather there, tucks a coquettish bow under the brim to cover a bare place, until you would think the entire confection had been specially designed for the customer.

And often the hat is designed to suit the style of the wearer. I study the complexion, the color of the hair and eyes, and the hat is trimmed from a human chart, as it were.

If the customer wishes she can come in, try on the hat, or study it in the process of making. Then her cheeks can be matched in the faintest shade of rose color, the facing of her hat done in steel blue, to bring out the blue of her eyes, and the velvet twisted in the brim made so nearly the shade of her hair that absolute harmony is preserved, and the beauty of the girl is reflected in her hat or bonnet. This is true, artistic millinery.

Only a few days ago a strikingly pretty girl came to select a hat for her cousin. She was as pretty as a picture—dark, with great Spanish eyes, and cheeks as red as roses. In looking over the hats she espied one of our prettiest, a violet confection, and insisted upon trying it on. Of course, she could not wear it. I explained to her that such a mass of violet could only be worn by a cool, pale blonde, or woman with black hair, violet eyes and pale skin. Finally convinced the dark beauty that she would appear to her best advantage in a huge picture hat of black straw, trimmed with rich cream lace and waving black plume.

It is really a matter of conscience with me to see that a hat is becoming before I sell it.

It is very difficult to have hats practical as well as pretty. I have found a good idea to have a hat tried on the head of the assistant while it is being trimmed. This is especially necessary this Spring, because the under brims are being so elaborately garnished that unless they are built up on the founda-



"Just two black plumes next. It couldn't stand one more without looking hearsey."

tion of the hair they are bound to look stiff and awkward.

Hat trimming is really a special sort of genius. There are so many intricate steps, and each are so necessary to the artistic perfection of the whole.

Just see all the fluffy lace on this hat. Doesn't it look as though it had been flung carelessly over the crown?

Well, there isn't a careless touch on it. Every curve of lace has been wired, adjusted and fitted in place. It looks as airy as a bit of thistle-down, but it will never blow out of place with the heaviest Mayblossom wind.

And the feathers—do you think they are put on at random? They look easy and graceful enough; but they are put on to stay, and were tested on each side of the hat, and back and front, with the hat at every possible angle, before being securely fastened.

Flower hats are the rage again, but they must be selected with infinite care. When I hear a girl say "Oh, any one can wear flowers, no matter what color the blossoms are," I know that person has not made a study of color.

In the first place, there are only certain styles of faces that should wear flower hats at all. A face must have something of the beauty and freshness of flowers to harmonize with them. I do not mean that plain girls and elderly women should not indulge in floral hat trimming, but merely that it requires beauty to harmonize with beauty, and even beauty must sometimes indulge in judgment.

Here is a rose picture hat made to order for a Dresden china girl, with a pink and white complexion and golden curls. The color scheme in the hat was suggested by the exquisite beauty of the girl.

A woman with a sallow skin who wishes to select a garden party hat should give her attention to the rich, dark flowers. Take this combination of black chiffon and Black Prince roses. It would render any dark woman charming, for the brim would throw a softening shadow over her face and the deep red of the roses reflect color in her skin.

Women do not seem to realize that the average complexion will reflect color

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